

April 2022

BayLeaves

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Running Around THE Village

WITH THE WFB "UNOFFICIAL" RUN CLUB


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Refuse and Recycling Spring Schedule Change:

Refuse and recycling normally collected on Friday, April 15, 2022, will be picked up on Thursday, April 14, 2022.

Spring 2022 Election Information:

Polls will be open on April 5, 2022. Polling places are open from 7:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Please use the Ward Map (PDF) link to see where your polling place is: <http://www.wfbvillage.org/DocumentCenter/View/508/>.

- ▶ **Offices to be elected for the April 5, 2022 election include:** Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge, Milwaukee County Supervisor, Whitefish Bay School District School Board Member and Village of Whitefish Bay Trustee
- ▶ **How to Request an Absentee Ballot:**
 - ▶ You may request a ballot online at www.myvote.wi.gov.
 - ▶ You also may request a ballot be mailed to you by emailing the Village: elections@wfbvillage.org.
 - ▶ Your request must include a copy of WI photo ID and be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 31, 2022.

- ▶ **Your options to return your ballot:**
 - ▶ Place your ballot in the mail. The U.S. Postal Service sorts and delivers official election mail in an expedited fashion.
 - ▶ Drop your ballot off at the Village Hall front desk during regular business hours.
 - ▶ Please remember that your ballot must be received at Village Hall (not postmarked) by 8:00 p.m. on April 5, 2022.
 - ▶ Per a recent circuit court decision, voters may only drop off or mail their own absentee ballot.
- ▶ **In-Person Absentee Voting:** In-Person Absentee Voting will occur on weekdays from Tuesday, March 22–Friday, April 1, 2022, during regular business hours (until 5:00 p.m. on April 1, 2022).



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Contact: Kathy Durand at (262) 716 4788, or kdurand@bestversionmedia.com

FEEDBACK/IDEAS/SUBMISSIONS
Have feedback, ideas or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the 20th of each month. You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to Christine McBride at cmcbride@bestversionmedia.com

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Content Due	Edition Date
December 20	February
January 20	March
February 20	April
March 20	May
April 20	June
May 20	July
June 20	August
July 20	September
August 20	October
September 20	November
October 20	December
November 20	January

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Village Hall	(414) 962-6690
Public Library	(414) 964-4380
Dept. of Recreation	
& Community Education	(414) 963-3947
Whitefish Bay School District	(414) 963-3921

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DEAR RESIDENTS,

Our family loves to take advantage of the sidewalks in Whitefish Bay and walking around our village. On our daily walks my son loves climbing trees at Big Bay and Klode Parks. Over the last year we have noticed a growing group of runners who stop by one of the parks for their half-way point. Enjoy reading about how this new free running group formed and they are happily welcoming new members if anyone is interested.

CHEERS,



Christine McBride



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Joy Dumke and Rachel Conforti

running club for me to come out of my shell and meet a lot of new friends. I love that the club is not just about running, but also has a strong social element. We have done dinners and wine nights together and a Christmas gift exchange, where all of the gifts had to be running inspired."

The group rotates weekend runs on either Saturday or Sunday to accommodate the most schedules for that weekend. There is also an early morning weekday group that meets multiple times each week at 5:30am - even in the winter months. They offer three different courses for fast, medium and slower paced runners and walkers. Rachel is proud to always be the last one to finish and happy to be paired with anyone new to the group that weekend. They have a selfie tradition where after each run they take a selfie together and post it to their group page.



Running Around The Village

WITH THE WFB "UNOFFICIAL" RUN CLUB

Finding motivation to run can be difficult for many people. Add in how brutally cold and windy Wisconsin winters can be, and it's nearly impossible to self-motivate to run outside. When Rachel Conforti moved to Whitefish Bay from New York in 2021, she was looking for a running group to keep her both motivated and accountable to run each week.

"My husband and I decided to reset our lives after the pandemic started, moving across the country and working remotely," said Rachel. "Moving during the pandemic didn't exactly lend itself well to making new friends. I had been in a running group back in New York, and was looking for a group to help hold me accountable for running while also meeting new people."

After searching for local running groups, Rachel didn't have any luck finding one, so decided to post on a Facebook group just to find one or two people interested in running together. To her surprise, Rachel was inundated with messages from over 30 people interested in running together. "Since there was so much interest I thought the best way to organize it was forming a group run. Not knowing if there were already established running groups in the area, I called us the WFB "Unofficial" Run Club, as to not offend any existing groups."

Little did Rachel know, their group would quickly become rather large with over 100 people from all walks of life. Fellow running member Joy Dumke, has become one of the leaders of the group. "I have lived in Whitefish Bay for over a decade and it took the

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Here are what some members had to share about being part of the group:

"I started running again to connect and build friendships while also finding my identity outside of being a mom to young children. I'm grateful to find such an amazing group of supportive and encouraging women" - Sara Anson

"The running group presented an amazing opportunity to meet new people, experience new challenges with others as a support, and get outside in weather that my native Texan blood would never choose to do alone. What I didn't think would happen was the ability to make life-long friends. In a short time we have all become very close and I know our group will continue for many years to come." -Tamara Kent

"This running group is a weekly accountability partner and motivation for self care. It's a great way to start the weekend on the right note - it's both social and health focused." - Allison Juech

The running group is open to everyone, and have even had a few families join with strollers to enjoy adult conversation while walking with the group. They have members from numerous countries including Spain, China, Korea, Poland, South America, and Denmark. While they have become more official over the last year, their Facebook name remains WFB "Unofficial" Run Club where information on their group runs can be found.

When speaking on the success of the group, founder Rachel Conforti has this to say: "I'm inspired by the commitment of the members and it brings me so much joy to be a part of this. I was looking for accountability and what I've found was even more special - some amazing friends, neighbors and connections I would never have made this quickly. We are coming up on our 1 year anniversary of the run group and I honestly am overwhelmed at the things we were able to achieve. Looking forward to many more runs with lots of new friends."

BY CHRISTINE MCBRIDE, PHOTOS BY BOUTIQUE PHOTOGRAPHER



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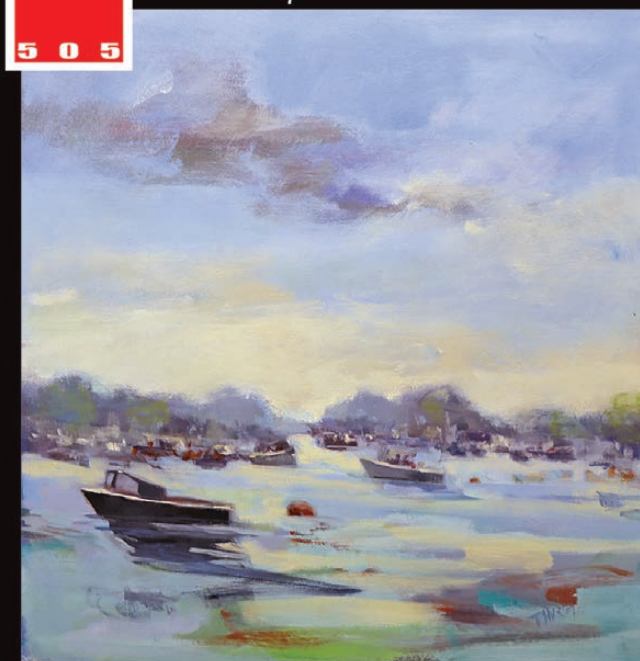
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SUMMER EVENTS!



Mark your calendars as The Merchants of Whitefish Bay will have another Summer of great events!

SIP*SHOP* SUPPORT LOCAL—FIRST THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH

Thursdays, June 2, July 7, August 4 & September 1

Join us on Silver Spring Drive on the first Thursday of the month for a few extra hours of shopping—and sipping! Participating stores will be open from 5:00–7:00 p.m., and will offer free samples of wine (June and August) or beer (July and September). Plus, you can enjoy live music on the street.

WFB ART FESTIVAL

Saturday–Sunday, July 9–10

The Merchants along with Amdur Productions will be closing Silver Spring Drive, from Santa Monica to Lake, so that 100+ artists from the Milwaukee area and all over the country can set-up tier booths in the street. The juried artists, entertainment and food vendors will prove to make this a wonderful event for the whole family.

WFB SIDEWALK SALE

Friday–Saturday, July 15–16

The longstanding tradition of the Whitefish Bay Sidewalk Sale has grown to be a full-out summer event, featuring great deals on distinctive merchandise and an Adventure Zone for kids.

Watch for more details on all upcoming events at www.merchantswhitefishbay.com, @ShopWFB on Facebook and @wfbid on Instagram.

Each month on our website, we HIGHLIGHT a business on the street. Check it out to learn more about each business and who they are!

BY KATIE COMMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

A Brief Guide to Permits in Whitefish Bay



From small updates to large additions, many home projects require permits in Whitefish Bay. Though often seen as just an additional project cost, they are beneficial for everyone involved. Permits and inspections help protect the housing stock, the commercial buildings and the infrastructure in Whitefish Bay. Permits also help ensure that the work being done meets the health and safety standards adopted by the Village Board and allow the Village to keep a record of the work that has been done on the property.

Planning a home renovation project in 2022? Below is a list of frequently asked questions to help you navigate the permit process in Whitefish Bay.

► What projects require permits in Whitefish Bay?

- Many projects require a permit—or multiple permits—in the Village. To see a list of common projects and the permits they require, visit <http://www.wfbvillage.org/330/Permits>. If you don't see your project listed or you have additional questions, you can call the Building Services Department at 414-962-6690 Ext. 111 (M–F, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.).

► Are there any projects that do not require permits?

- Some projects, including the addition of a chimney liner, a new driveway on the private side only, or new siding on a property, do not require permits. If you are not sure whether a permit is needed or not, contact the Building Services Department before you begin your project.

► When should I (or my contractor) obtain the permits needed for my next project?

- Permits must be applied for and issued before a project begins. It is recommended that you submit your permit application at least 10 days before you begin your project to allow time for processing. While most permits can be processed much faster than this, it is important that the inspectors have enough time to review the plans.

► What should I do if I suspect a contractor has not pulled any permits?

- Call the Building Services Department, at 414-962-6690 Ext. 111, to see if a permit has been issued. If a permit was not pulled, the Building Services Department will take the appropriate action.

► How can I view my property's permit record?

- To obtain a copy of your property file, bring a new flash drive (in its original packaging) or purchase a new flash drive from the Building Services counter at Village Hall (5300 N Marlborough Dr., Whitefish Bay, WI). They will download the files onto the flash drive for you to take with you.

► I pulled the appropriate permits and completed my project. What comes next?

- When your project is complete, the homeowner or contractor will need to set up an inspection with the Building Services Department at 414-962-6690 ext. 111.



HEARTWORM TESTING

Recommended Every April

Once upon a time, heartworm was a rare occurrence in Wisconsin. Now, with dogs coming in from other states that have high rates of heartworm to find loving homes, we can consider it endemic. Even if a dog is tested before or when they arrive and are clear, they won't test positive for 6–7 months after infection.

Heartworm is spread via mosquito, and we know Wisconsin has too many of them. They will bite an infected host and pick up the larvae, and then when they bite a dog, they will pass the larvae through the wound. It is that simple. You may ask:

My dog lives inside, why should I worry about heartworm?

- Mosquitoes can get indoors easily, and one bite can do it. It is not worth the risk.

Why do I need to test my dog if they are on monthly preventative?

- It only takes one dose of preventative that is not taken properly or timely to put a hole in that protection.



Why does my dog need preventative all year when mosquitoes are not around all year?

- Mosquitoes can hatch any time of year when conditions permit. A late summer or early spring can produce conditions that will bear new mosquitoes so best not to take chances.

Annual heartworm testing and preventative is far less expensive than the cost to treat your dog for heartworm and is strongly recommended each April. See your veterinarian for more information.



BY KAREN SPARAPANI,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Enhancing A Culture Of Safety

As a Village, we share the collective responsibility to enhance a culture of safety for all. Spring weather in Wisconsin is unpredictable. Be sure to review safety information related to severe weather.

BY JULIE PITEI,
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

Severe Weather Safety

Severe Storms

- Make a Safety Plan ✓
- Seek Shelter Indoors 🏠
- Go to the Lower Level ⬇
- Monitor Local Alerts 📱

Floods

- Make a Safety Plan ✓
- Seek Higher Ground ⬆
- Do Not Enter Water ⚡
- Monitor Local Alerts 📱

Practice Your Safety Plan **Before** Severe Weather Arrives

As a Village, we share the collective responsibility to enhance a culture of safety for all

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Take the Stress Out of Moving



THE IDEA OF MOVING can be daunting for anyone who hasn't moved in a few years, much less after 30, 40 or 50 years in the same home. The following are some ideas for your planning. Start with the end in mind. Picture your new home or apartment. How do you envision your new home? What do you want it to look and feel like? How do you want to feel when you look around?

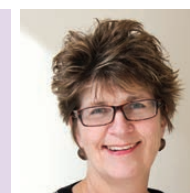
Unless you have been committed to being a lifelong minimalist, almost all of us have too much “stuff”. You might think you are saving items for adult children or grandchildren, but most likely they have already acquired their own “stuff.” This might also be a conversation you're afraid to have with your parents, because naturally you don't want to hurt their feelings.

Maybe it's been many years since you've “edited” any of your belongings and just the thought of tackling it can be overwhelming. You may benefit from enlisting the help of a Senior Move Manager or Designer to help you begin to take little steps in streamlining your collections. They can work with you to decide what will fit in your new home and what new purchases might complement what you already own to “feather your new nest.” Senior Move Managers work with you to help you organize which cherished pieces you might offer to family members, what items might be appropriate for consignment, or what you might want to donate to charity. Some of us have too many shoes or sets of china, or even books than we know what do with! These moving or design professionals can help you objectively make decisions to create a new home that is uniquely you.

Interior Designers or Move Managers help you navigate your move and your new home in small bites. Many Move Managers are nationally accredited to work with executives, older adults, and military families to plan a move—locally or cross-country. Ask friends and family whom they know and would recommend. Other professionals like your realtor might also be able to recommend someone for you. Interview several people to find the right person or firm who feels like a good fit to respectfully work with you and for you. Find someone with whom you think you'll have a good working relationship and with whom you'd enjoy working. These professionals help lighten your load and ease the stress of moving.

Look on the bright side, in my experience I've seen decorators, designers or senior move managers transform the anxiety and stress of moving into an enjoyable adventure—something to look forward to and embrace. They are like Cinderella's fairy godmother, working with you to transform your new space into a HOME you love!

ASK THE
EXPERT



BY LUCI KLEBAR,
DIRECTOR OF SALES
& MARKETING, SAINT
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12TH ANNUAL
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MAY 7, 2022



Whitefish Bay's Green Day in The Bay is a fun, family-friendly event that promotes environmental awareness, water conservation and sustainable living through how-to clinics, hands on learning, professional exhibits and much more. Come to Klode Park at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 7, for Green Day in The Bay—there's something for everyone!

This year's event will promote the theme of "Footprints to the Future—Our Conservation Efforts Bring Us Together" with focus on sustainable water use, energy efficiency and impactful local initiatives. After you recycle unwanted items at Recycle Day and Run the Bay, gather at Klode Park and leave only footprints as you stroll through the Eco-Fair.

Learning opportunities will engage visitors of all ages with...

- ▶ **5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run**
 - ▶ Bring your reusable water bottle and support the Whitefish Bay Public Education Foundation.
 - ▶ Registration can be found here: <http://www.runthebay.org/>



- ▶ **Clinics & Tips for Sustainable Living**
 - ▶ Water Use/Reuse—How YOU can Conserve and Protect our Waterways
 - ▶ Natural Lawn Care, Composting & Land Management
- ▶ **Hands-on Learning for Families**
 - ▶ Kids Exhibits with Fish, Bees & Butterflies
 - ▶ The Water Cycle and Operation Watershed
 - ▶ Reduce, Reuse and Recycle—How Long Does Litter Last?!
- ▶ **Recycle Day Drop-Off**
 - ▶ The traditional recycling drop-off will once again take place in the Dominican High School West Parking Lot from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Watch for more details on what items you can bring to be reused, recycled and disposed of.

Watch for information on how you can win valuable prizes from the Merchants of Whitefish Bay!

This event will model our commitment to reducing waste, conserving water & energy, and will serve as a forum to educate others on how to reduce resource consumption at similar public and private events.



Collaborating Partners: The WFB Civic Foundation, The WFB Public Education Foundation, The Merchants of WFB, Dominican High School and The Village of Whitefish Bay



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5031 N Woodruff Ave.	\$355,000
5006 N Woodruff Ave.	\$469,900
6225 N Lake Dr.	\$529,900
5463 N Lake Dr.	\$799,900
1056 E Circle Dr.	\$899,900
4676 N Lake Dr.	\$2,199,900

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Address	List Price	Sold Price
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5115 N Kent Ave.	\$259,900	\$280,000
4766 N Berkeley Blvd.	\$359,900	\$359,900
4722 N Hollywood Ave.	\$359,900	\$352,000
5661 N Bay Ridge Ave.	\$369,000	\$360,000
1825 E Cumberland Blvd.	\$699,900	\$791,000

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PUBLIC HEALTH: TWO YEARS LATER

This March marked two years since COVID-19 first hit the North Shore and began to impact our daily lives. Since that day, we have interacted with thousands of our North Shore residents and established relationships within our communities that we will continue to cultivate moving forward. We have adapted immensely in the last two years as we learned more about this virus and continually adjusted our disease follow-up, contact tracing and isolation and quarantine recommendations. We quickly pivoted at the start of 2021 to begin to distribute COVID-19 vaccines, administering a total of 9,673 doses to those 12+ years of age and 1,250 doses to those 5-11 years of age. This is an endeavor we are continuing into 2022 to ensure vaccines are accessible to North Shore residents, and we remain prepared to further increase our vaccination efforts again should the need arise.

The COVID-19 response at our health department, and many departments across Wisconsin, has shifted considerably in 2022, as we have started to prioritize our response efforts. Focusing on the high-risk individuals and most vulnerable populations has allowed us to more effectively help those most in need, while

continuing to offer guidance to schools, childcare centers, long-term care facilities, businesses, families and individuals. The dedication of our core employees, COVID-19 staff, interns and volunteers has allowed us to keep abreast of the thousands of COVID-19 cases diagnosed during the Omicron surge, continue to answer the multitude of questions posed by residents and businesses and continue our COVID-19 vaccination program.

Although COVID-19 still demands a significant amount of our time, we have begun in earnest to retrain our focus back to some of our pre-pandemic public health activities. We have started work on our North Shore Community Health Assessment (CHA), which is completed every five years at local health departments in Wisconsin to identify the most important community needs that should be a focus of the department.

The CHA will inform the creation of the 2025-2029 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which will guide the work of our department. Public input is an essential component of the CHA and helps us to develop goals and programs that best meet the needs of our North Shore communities. Watch for future communications about completing the community health survey.

BY KAYLA BONACK, MPH



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Pictured Right: JSG's Equity Experts renovation of a home on Larkin St. in Shorewood.

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CELEBRATE

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

—and 85 Years of the Whitefish Bay Library!

APRIL 4-APRIL 10 is National Library Week, and this year the Library really has something to celebrate. 2022 marks the 20th year in our current building, as well as the 85th year since our formation. The Library was originally opened to the public on February 15, 1937, with approximately 1,600 books on its shelves. Through the efforts of the Whitefish Bay Woman's Club and with the help of Ralph Cahill, who was Village Manager at the time, a 480 sq. ft. room in the basement of the Village Hall served as our first location.

Shortly after opening, the Woman's Club and several Bay residents donated over 200 of their own books to the Library. Over the years the collection continued to grow with community support. In July of 1953, the "Friends of the Library" was organized to help bring awareness of the Library's overcrowded conditions. This led to a new Library building in November 1955, at our current location.

By 1967, the Library reached its capacity with 32,000 items. The annual circulation had risen to 240,000 and there were 15,500 Whitefish Bay residents registered as patrons. There were 12,000 residents from surrounding communities who were using the Library. In 1973, the Whitefish Bay Library Board voted to join the Milwaukee County Federated Library System which allowed all Libraries in the County to offer cooperative services.

The Library's story comes from information found in our Mimi Bird Historical Collection online at: <https://bit.ly/33f16CM>. Read the second part of our history in next month's Bay Leaves!



BY SCOTT LENSKI,
HEAD OF ADULT SERVICES



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Summer Recreation Guides Have Been Mailed!!

The anticipated Summer WFB Recreation Guide filled with youth, adult and senior opportunities in recreation, summer camps, exercise and sports was distributed to resident homes in March! Registration has begun, and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Many of our summer programs fill quickly; do not wait to register!

New in the summer of 2022, the random lottery system for overfilled classes will be eliminated and a Resident Early Bird Registration period will be implemented. During Resident Early Bird Registration, the Recreation Guide will be uploaded to our website up to 2 weeks prior to residents receiving the guide by mail. Residents will be able to start registration

online or by submitting a paper form to our office. Registration will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis until the class is filled. High-demand classes then go to a manual wait list. If you notice a class is full online, please call our office to get on our wait list. If your registration is received by paper and the class is full, you will be automatically notified and added to the waitlist. We believe this new system will simplify our process and give equal access to all our residents.

Connects Before & After School Care

Registration for the 2022/23 Connects program begins on April 14, 2022.

The Connects Program provides K4 Wrap and Before and After School Care for students in grades K5-5 at both Richards and Cumberland Elementary Schools from 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. The program at both schools can fill quickly; please do not wait to register.

Registration packets may be picked up at Richards and Cumberland Schools, the Lydell Community Center or downloaded from our website: www.wfbschools.com

T-Ball and Coach Pitch Leagues Now Open for Registration!

This program is designed to help boys and girls develop basic baseball fundamentals in a less competitive atmosphere. Each player will have three chances to hit a ball pitched by coaches before placing the ball on a tee. A softer ball will be used to help players catch and throw without the fear of injury. Players must provide their own glove. Volunteer parent coaches are needed.

- ▶ Cumberland, Armory and Richards Fields
- ▶ Grades K4 and K5 as of 2022/2023 school year
- ▶ June 18-July 30 (skip July 2)
- ▶ Wed/Sat 6:15 p.m. Wed/9:00 a.m. Sat
- ▶ Thurs/Sat 6:15 p.m. Thurs/10:30 a.m. Sat
- ▶ Registration deadline: Friday, May 20
- ▶ On/before May 9: Resident/Non-resident \$70.00/\$80.00
- ▶ After May 9: Resident/Non-resident \$95.00/\$105.00

Coach Pitch League

Designed for children who are not quite ready to play Little League. A softer ball is used to help players catch and throw without fear of injury. Emphasis is on skill development and sportsmanship. Players must provide their own glove. Volunteer parent coaches are needed.

- ▶ Cumberland, Armory and Richards Fields
- ▶ Grades 1 and 2 as of 2022/2023 school year
- ▶ June 18-July 30 (skip July 2)
- ▶ Wed/Sat 6:15 p.m. Wed/9:00 a.m. Sat
- ▶ Registration deadline: Friday, May 20
- ▶ On/before May 9: Resident/Non-resident \$70.00/\$80.00
- ▶ After May 9: Resident/Non-resident \$95.00/\$105.00



Sponsorship Opportunities

The Whitefish Bay Rec Department is looking for sponsors for the upcoming Tee-Ball and Coach Pitch seasons. If you or your business is interested in this opportunity to expand your brand, please reach out to Mark at 414-963-3864 or mark.suchowski@wfbschools.com.

Whitefish Bay Senior "55 and Better" ProgramsIn the Community for the Community

- Senior Coffee Talk: Fall Risk Prevention Seminar**
- ▶ Presenter: Shawn McComb, Executive Director of Right at Home
 - ▶ Thursday, May 19, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 - ▶ Lydell Community Center, Room 15
 - ▶ FREE, but pre-registration is required; Coffee and donuts will be provided.

The goal of this session is to help seniors reduce their risk of taking falls. Falls are a leading cause of life-changing injuries, high-

er medical costs and a loss of independent living. The objectives of this session are to provide practical information and guidance that seniors can use in their residence and community on a daily basis. Participants will learn about a wide range of tips and risk factors to help improve their safety. The session includes video and other content from the National Council on Aging, the Milwaukee County Fall Prevention Coalition, and other nationally recognized organizations. Video, fun and interactive questionnaires; a Fall Risk Prevention Checklist; and an individualized Fall Risk Assessment for each participant are included.

BY CARIN KELAND, DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION



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FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

Frequent Questions That Need Answers



We've written about fire extinguishers at least a couple of times in the last several years, however, it remains one of the most common topics we receive calls about in our administrative offices. So, we will take some time this month to cover a number of the most asked topics about them:

CHOOSING AN EXTINGUISHER: We don't recommend any particular brand of extinguisher, however, consumers should keep their eye out for models that have been approved by UL or other trusted consumer testing companies. Likewise, units purchased for use in the home should be ABC type extinguishers, meaning they have been approved for various types of fires, including wood and paper (Type A); grease, oil and flammable liquids (Type B); and electrical (Type C). Generally, you can find an extinguisher that will be a good fit for residential use at most big-box or local hardware stores.

PLACEMENT: Most fires in the home happen in the kitchen. Therefore, the logical place to put your home fire extinguisher is in a readily accessible area within the kitchen. It is always best to ensure it never gets buried behind other items in a pantry or cabinet. Mounting it on a wall where it can be grabbed quickly is ideal. Additional extinguishers should be kept throughout the home, where they can be accessed quickly to be used for escape. Remember, fire extinguishers are designed to facilitate safe escape from a home, not to make you a firefighter. Never go away from an exit to attempt to extinguish a fire. Instead, get out and stay out!

LIFE EXPECTANCY: This is a tough question to answer. Varying manufacturers have different life expectancies depending on the model. Generally speaking, household extinguishers are good

for anywhere from 5 to 15 years. Always read the labeling and any instruction manuals that come with the extinguisher prior to placement in your home. Here you will find manufacture and expiration/life expectancy dates.

DISPOSAL: Unused residential extinguishers that are expired typically have pressure behind them and should not be thrown into the trash until the pressure is expelled. To expel pressure, place the nozzle into a garbage bag with a tight hold around the hose while outside and away from any open windows or doors. Expel the contents of the dry chemical into the garbage bag to dispose of it and then throw the container away as well. Generally speaking, residential extinguishers are not recyclable. Commercial grade extinguishers are usually rechargeable through a local service company and should not be thrown away. The fire department does not collect or dispose of old extinguishers.

Our Community Risk Reduction Specialist is always happy to review some basic extinguisher use principles with you as a part of our free Home Safety Assessment Program. Visits can be scheduled through our website.

If you have additional questions about fire extinguishers or want to learn more about the programs and services offered by North Shore Fire/Rescue, please visit our website, www.nsfire.org.



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SPECIAL EVENTS WITH

Bold Style

THE LAST TWO YEARS have presented unanticipated challenges in creating memories around special events like milestone birthdays, retirements, and weddings. For the Wisconsin Center District (WCD) – owners and operators of the Wisconsin Center, Miller High Life Theatre, and UW-Milwaukee Panther Arena – the challenges have led to bright, bold, out of the box thinking for special events.

“Our ability to be nimble through the height of the pandemic was notable, and now we know we can keep that bold creativity going to provide a second-to-none experience for our special events clients,” said Megan Seppmann, vice president of sales for the WCD. “Whether a small private event or a 10,000-person convention, our values to Be Bold. Be Proud. Be Experience Obsessed are our superpower!”

While locals may not often think of a convention center, theater, or arena for hosting a private event, the venues of the WCD provide unique, creative backdrops that turn an average event into something truly memorable.

“My favorite recent private event was a phenomenal 800-person wedding reception we recently hosted in the ballroom of the Wisconsin Center,” said Katie Ragan, WCD’s senior account manager. “The bride and groom had an all-night open-house, including unique food stations all evening, to keep their guests guessing at what was next. Providing this type of customized

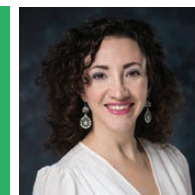
food and beverage experience for my clients is such a thrill, I can’t wait to see what our brides bring this year!”

In fall of 2021 the WCD broke ground for an expansion of the Wisconsin Center. Anticipated to open in Q2 of 2024 the expansion will include a very special fourth-floor rooftop ballroom. With expansive outdoor terraces and city views, it is sure to be the newest hot spot destination for brides and special events alike.

“Bringing a client’s vision to life isn’t just my job, it’s my passion,” said Ragan. “Whether it’s a bride descending down the grand staircase of the Miller High Life Theatre, or a late-night celebration lighting up downtown in the Atrium of the Wisconsin Center, I have never felt more excitement and desire to mark special milestones in a big way from our clients!”

Ragan says she is booking corporate and private parties now through 2023. For more information and to curate your own unconventional event, email her at kragan@wcd.org.

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EXPERT



BY SARAH MAIO



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